

Heydler Unable to Attend Commission Meeting to Elect Chairman Herrmann's Successor

National League Executive Pledged to Oppose 'Garry'

Only Resignation of President of Reds Can Clarify Situation and Re-establish Faith of the Public in Triumvirate; Ebbets Releases Two Players

By W. J. Macbeth

The annual meeting of the National Commission, which is scheduled to be held at Cincinnati next Monday, will of necessity have to be postponed or proceed without the National League representative, President John A. Heydler of the National League has notified his commission associates—Chairman August Herrmann and President Ben Johnson, of the American League—that because of press of personal business it will be impossible for him to go West as early as Monday.

No official announcement has been forthcoming as yet as to whether Mr. Heydler's absence will prompt a postponement. Messrs. Herrmann and Johnson constitute a quorum, and if they feel so disposed may proceed without the National League representative. There is practically no official business to be transacted, according to Mr. Heydler, aside from the annual election of a chairman. And the election of such a chairman, under known circumstances, is absolutely impossible at this time.

President Heydler is pledged to the majority of the club owners of the National League not to vote for Mr. Herrmann to continue in office. The joint committee appointed by the two major leagues to assist in the selection of Mr. Herrmann's successor has been unable to make any headway because Mr. Johnson refused to meet with Colonel Ruppert, his own appointee, and the National League committee in turn refused to repudiate the Colonel. Herrmann has continued in office as a result of this stalemate.

No Election Possible
Certainly with Heydler absent it will be impossible for any election of a chairman, as this official has to be mutually agreed upon by the two big league presidents. If the president of the Cincinnati Reds continues in office, therefore, it will not be with the sanction of the National League. There is absolutely no chance of breaking the deadlock at this time. If the annual meeting is held, the big difficulty may have righted itself in the mean time. Nearly a month ago Mr. Herrmann declared he would resign from the chairmanship of the commission by next Wednesday if sentiment did change in his favor meanwhile.

As at present constituted the National Commission does not carry the prestige supposed to be attached to the law. This has been so ever since the American League repudiated one of the triumvirate's decisions and carried Scott Perry case into a court of law.

John K. Tener, then president of the National League, openly repudiated the commission at the time and later repudiated agreement with the National League. It is understood that ever since John A. Heydler has been little more than an idle spectator at the commission meetings.

Minors Also Affected
The commission muddle, which has been aggravated by the war within the American League, has the whole structure of the commission as a whole shaken. The minor leagues are quite as much concerned over the result as are the majors, for the little fellows are anxious to re-establish a league agreement with the National and American circuits in order to reap the benefits of the drafting harvest. The "minor" committee has been making time ever since the Springfield meeting.

At its annual meeting here the American League was not able to proceed as far as any minor business. The conference broke up in a gigantic row before any policy could be considered. At its meeting the National League decided to await a joint meeting with the American League to determine a policy mutually agreeable. As a result the minor leagues, hat in hand, are still cooling their heels in the meantime.

It is unofficial talk of a joint meeting of the American and National leagues in Chicago some time about the middle of this month. It is said that Ben Johnson will not mail out the annual meeting adjourned from the Baltimore, this city, Wednesday, December 10.

Charles H. Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn club, has mailed notices to his players that he intends to exercise options on their services for 1920. The square of Flatbush will mail out contracts before the end of the present month. He believes that by taking advantage of the delay afforded by baseball law he will minimize the aggravation of "hold-out" squabbles.

Ebbets has planned with Manager Wilbert Robinson certain moves calculated to make of the Dodgers a flag contender. He realizes the possibilities of a pennant race for a good Sunday town. He will not let money stand in the way of adding the required strength to his team.

However, Ebbets does not intend to tolerate extravagance. It is his purpose to rid the club of those recruits who must be planted in the sticks before being sent to the expense of spring training for them. Two of these were released yesterday. Pitcher Harry Zeitman was sent to the Buffalo club of the New International League, while pitcher Lafayette Hinton was assigned to Oakland, of the Pacific Coast League. Brooklyn will take about thirty players to Jacksonville, Fla.

Eddie Collins, star second baseman of the champion White Sox, says he is not worrying over his 1920 contract. "I have every faith in the fairness of Charles Comiskey," he told a Philadelphia writer the other day. "As the close of the season Mr. Comiskey gave me a most liberal bonus, which was entirely unexpected. Also I wish to deny that I entertain managerial ambitions. I have no desire to try my hand at that game so long as I am able to play major league baseball."

According to President Billy Veck, the Cubs will not dally much in the sticks on the way home from the Coast. Most of their exhibition games will be confined to teams of the Pacific Coast League. The long jump home will be broken by only a couple of stops.

Connie Mack is going to take forty athletes to his Lake Charles training camp, and hopes there may be a ball player or two discovered among the lot. Connie reiterates the statement that he will not sell any players. As a matter of fact, right now he'd have a hard time giving any away.

John "Brick" Kane, third baseman of the Pink Redtops, of Chicago Falls, will receive a try-out with Fred Mitchell's Cubs this spring.

It Happens in the Best Regulated Families

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Harvard Players, In Joyous Mood, Start for Home

PASADENA, Calif., Jan. 2.—The Harvard football squad left today on the long return journey to Cambridge, Mass., fully repaid for the double transcontinental trip by the victory gained over the University of Oregon eleven. The Crimson triumph was the first scored by an Eastern team in the annual intersectional matches here.

Discussion today by critics of the gridiron game largely concerned the ability of Eddie Casey, Harvard's sensational right halfback, in catching forward passes and freeing himself from tacklers and Arnold Horwien's line plunging during the final period. Fred Church was given credit for much effective punting.

Little Manerud and Bill Steers, whose drop kicks brought the Oregon score within one point of Harvard's seven, also came in for favorable mention.

That no new style of play was uncovered by either team also was commented upon. Both elevens relied mainly upon the old staples—line plunging, across tackle bucks, around end runs, punts and a few forward passes.

Weight of the Harvard team, which aggregated considerably more than that of Oregon, played no part in the victory, declared Robert Fisher, Crimson head coach. He ascribed the success to his players' pluck. It was the first scrimmage Harvard had done since the close of the Eastern season. Coach "Shy" Huntington, of Oregon, said his team would return home with the knowledge that they had played as hard and as clean a game as they could and convinced that they had made a commendable showing.

headed, scrappy Shannon brothers starred for the Seton Hall baseball team. Maurice is now in the American League, while Joe was with Birmingham, of the Southern Association, last year.

Nothing more was heard of twin brother athletes in college circles until the Northwest football season, when the Shannon twins to the front as a star pair of ends. Easterners had a chance to see these youngsters in action against Rutgers last fall, and it must be said that they played well.

As usual one did better than the other, in this case being Lester, the left end. However, we couldn't swear that as they look so much alike that one might be the other, and he is brother.

Now comes the report regarding the Dugan twins, brothers of Joe Dugan, ex-Holy Cross star, and later shortstop of the lowly Athletics. The Dugan twins are students at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., and are said to be even better players than their older brother Joe. One thing is certain, if they have anything it will be developed by the veteran Jesse Burkett.

He who prophesies a big year in football next fall is sure of his ground. One need only glance at the various schedules as they appear from now on to have this idea confirmed. Every college, even the little fellows, is taking on strong opponents, so that the battles next season should be a series of continual whirled.

The Yale basketball team is enjoying a rather strenuous trip through Pittsburgh and surrounding country. Wednesday night it lost to West Virginia in an overtime contest and the following night managed to emerge victorious over Washington and Jefferson in another overtime struggle. In this second contest Captain Van Slyke came through in the nick of time, hooping the ball as the whistle blew.

It might be mentioned that another gratifying result of the Harvard-Oregon contest was the numbering of the Crimson players. The Easterners made good their first placing by wearing numerals that could be seen for miles away. All of which is going to benefit the spectator next fall.

The SPORTLIGHT by Grantland Rice

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It was only a breath or two ago that Ed Roush in a headlong dive killed off a three-base hit and broke up the last White Sox rally.

Yet within six weeks the new major league advance guard will be on its way to Dixie for the next campaign.

At this date last year baseball was still under a gray cloud of doubt and uncertainty. But 1920 will be under no such shadow. The abnormal amount of kale to be distributed among the first three clubs will keep the summer campaign at top speed. It is worth as much to finish second now as it was to win the closing series a few years ago.

January Forecasts

January forecasts, frosted with snow, may seem a trifle previous. They are. But at this date we should say the Reds have a better chance to repeat in the National League than the White Sox in the American. Pat Moran will have strong competition from New York, Chicago and Pittsburgh, but any manager who has five such pitchers as Ruether, Ring, Eller, Sallee and Fisher, with Luque in the bull pen, hasn't much to worry over.

The October series isn't going to help the White Sox. Half the club now doesn't trust the other half. The scandal stirred up around this machine will crack its morale unless several changes are made. And in the meanwhile Tris Speaker believes that he can at last lift Cleveland up above the ruins of twenty years.

It is no part of an impossibility that Ohio will confine the big series to Buckeye soil. In that case look out for an October simoom.

A Land Full of Pitching

There will be at least three clubs in the National League who will have enough pitching to go the route.

Take a slant-eyed look at these staffs: Cincinnati—Ruether, Ring, Eller, Sallee, Fisher, Luque. Chicago—Alexander, Vaughn, Hendrix, Tyler. New York—Barnes, Nehf, Toney, Benton.

No club in the American League has a staff that will approach any one of these three.

Coaching and Football

And one who cares to figure what part coaching has in football success might consider this brief summary:

Pittsburgh University—Well down the list until Glen Warner arrived from his Carlisle success. After which Pittsburgh lost only one game in four years, until 1919, her first off-season. Harvard—A tackling dummy for Yale and Princeton until Percy Houghton got his system into swing around 1912. Subsequent record—Five victories and one defeat against Yale; five victories and a tie against Princeton (Fisher resuming in 1919).

Illinois—Fair to ordinary until Zupke took charge. A vital factor ever since.

Rutgers—Well down the list until George Foster Sanford arrived. A powerful machine almost every season since, always to be feared.

Colgate—Less than six hundred to draw from, with Larry Bankart in command for eight or ten years. Result—Victories over Yale, Princeton, Brown, Illinois, Cornell and steadily up among the winning elevens of the year.

A coach who knows football and who is a big, vital influence in college life with the inspiration of leadership is an overwhelming influence toward victory.

The records are quite sufficient to carry this point.

Duffer writes in to remark that the most important shot in golf is the one you miss. The ayes have it.

With Apologies

Said John McGraw to Connie Mack. "When do you plan on coming back?" "I'm waiting for the pole to thaw." Said Connie Mack to John McGraw.

L. J. H.—Car-por-to-ay seems to be the accepted pronunciation in the best French boxing circles.

Promoters who are speaking in millions for the Dempsey-Carpentier fight might recall the big killing that Tex Rickard was about to make in the Dempsey-Willard clash. At the finish, however, Tex was much obliged to break even.

The capture of Pinehurst by the golfing advertisers is reported to be imminent. The barrage will be lifted shortly, and after this there will be nothing to it but a romp.

If any one believes you can buy a pennant let him stop over and converse for a moment with Colenahs Huston and Ruppert, of the Yankees. They would esteem it much bliss to be put adjacent to the purchasing system.

Mixed Doubles Gaining Friends In This Country

By BRIGGS

Mrs. Wightman and Various Partners Have Stood Out Prominently Here

By Fred Hawthorne

Some day, when the game of lawn tennis in this country has reached its full development, there will be more interest shown in mixed doubles, and there will be better teams and more of them than is the case at present.

Even in recent years there has been a gradual increase in the attention paid to mixed doubles on American courts, and a few teams have stood out prominently, such combinations, for instance, as Mrs. George W. Wightman and Harry C. Johnson; Mrs. Wightman and Irving Wright; Mrs. Wightman and her husband; Miss Mary K. Browne and W. T. Tilden, 2d; Miss Molla Bjurstedt and Irving Wright, and Miss Marion Zindenstein and Vincent Richards.

All Have Held Titles
All these have held the national championship. Miss Zindenstein and Richards being the present title holders, and all have proved unusually brilliant teams. But there should be more mixed doubles teams of the same caliber, and there will be, as soon as the old prejudice against this form of tennis dies a natural death.

Consider Tilden as probably the greatest mixed doubles player among the men in this country today, and either Miss Browne or Mrs. Wightman the superior of all the women. The popular conception of mixed doubles is that the man dominates the court and that the woman, to be a really successful part of the combination, must play the shrinking violet and keep out of the way.

The falseness of this supposition has been proved in the cases of the women I have mentioned above. Each and every one is a player of the first rank in the singles, all except Miss Zindenstein having held the national title. In the cases of Miss Browne, Mrs. Wightman and Miss Zindenstein, they were unusually fine net players, a material help in mixed doubles, while Miss Bjurstedt (now Mrs. Franklin I. Mallory), is a splendid volleyer and so speedy in covering her court that she nullifies the lack of an overhead stroke.

Tilden is a natural power in doubles, men's or mixed, and this is a decided asset in the latter event, if not carried to excess. Gifted with a tremendous reach and an uncanny anticipation of an opponent's next move, the Philadelphia swarms all over the court, volleying, smashing, driving. Yet, when paired with Miss Browne in 1918 and 1919, at Philadelphia, when they won the national championship, Tilden permitted his brilliant little partner to do her share of the work—and Miss Browne proved fully equal to the demand put upon her.

Used Different Tactics
Mrs. Mallory and Irving Wright were a totally different playing combination, with the wonderful Norse girl covering the greater amount of court and Wright doing most of his execution from the net. Mrs. Wright's trick shot stroke proved a powerful factor. Mrs. Wightman knows the doubles game as perhaps no other woman, and she knows it. All the strategy and finesse are hers. She has a natural instinct for the game that enables her to do the right thing at the psychological moment. She can hold her own with the men in the fast rallies from mid-court and she frequently out-guesses the opposing pair at such times.

When playing with her husband in the final annual mixed doubles tournament at the West Side Tennis Club of Forest Hills, in 1918, Mrs. Wightman showed her ability to handle down on the court. The two formed the opposing team, but at any rate the play was very fast and George Wightman, not in the best physical condition, who has opened at 25, weakened in the third set.

All through the last set, when lack of wind prevented Wightman from going after placed shots that were far beyond his reach, he called in pleading voice to Mrs. Wightman, "You go it, Hazel!" and Mrs. Wightman did, and it was her brilliant work that won the match.

Even the mixed doubles game is more evenly developed than it is in this country, and there are a number of teams that have alternated in winning the championship tournaments at the great annual meetings for the south of France titles.

The Countess Schulenberg, paired with the late Doherty brothers, Reginald and John, called "Doherty" and "Doherty," Mrs. R. Lambert-Chambers and the late Tony Wilding; Mrs. M. Max Decker and Miss Elsa Ryan and Decugis and Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen and Decugis, the greatest combinations that have graced the European courts.

It would be a great thing for the game if, in the next few years, interest were to develop. The territory covered between the leading mixed doubles teams of the United States and Europe. Then we should see mixed doubles in its highest form, and I believe that the possibilities of this division of the game.

Levine Assumes Lead In Three-Cushion Match

The tie for the lead in the New York State three-cushion billiard championship was broken last night, when Harry Levine defeated H. L. Turk and William Flinn, 2-0. Levine and Ray Naughton in the two evening games at the National Recreation Academy, Brooklyn, last night. Prior to these contests Levine and Flinn were tied for first place with five games won and one lost.

Levine defeated H. L. Turk, 30 to 13, in sixty-nine innings. Flinn lost to Naughton after a sensational fight, 30 to 29. Naughton bridged a big gap in the thirty-eight-inning when he compiled a high run of six caroms, which placed him on even terms with his rival at 18 points each.

Bowlers Pick Indianapolis

CINCINNATI, Jan. 2.—Indianapolis was selected as the 1920 tournament city at the annual meeting of the Central States Bowlers' Association held today. The territory covered by the association was increased from 175 to a 200 mile radius, which takes in Toledo and Huntington, W. Va. Herman Morgard sr. and Harry Yockey, both of Cincinnati, were elected president and secretary respectively.

Holy Name Girls Win

Holy Name Girls basketball team defeated the National City Bank Girls team in the Public School 179 court last night by a score of 8 to 1. Miss Brennan and Miss Dunn starred.



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Transformed into an immense barnyard, 15,000 specimens of standard and fancy breeds of poultry, including pheasants, with hundreds of rabbits, hares and canines, Madison Square Garden will stage the thirty-first annual show of the New York Poultry and Pigeon Association, from Tuesday, January 20 to Saturday, January 24.

It will be such a vast show that every available inch of space in the big garden and the annexes will be utilized. "There is just one Madison Square Garden, just as there is only one New York City in the world," quote D. Lincoln Orr, the secretary of the association. "The Madison Square Garden an information office regarding the 'feather and fur' exhibition. And we have the world's leading poultry show, attended daily by more purchasers than any other show draws in an entire week."

The main floor and balconies, all in full view, will be filled with the cooped single birds and the pens of poultry families. The displays of ornamental birds, peacocks, pheasants, cranes, storks, Chinese and Indian fowls, are in the center aisle, facing the Madison Square Garden. They are flanked by a pool for the water fowl to be happy in and by the displays of flocks of imported and American-bred poultry and pigeons of unusual excellence.

Brown's Say When Leads Five in Ice Yacht Race

RED BANK, N. J., Jan. 2.—In a fresh northwest breeze six third class ice yachts of the North Shrewsbury Yacht Club were competing in a ten-mile race over the regular triangular course. Thomas Irving Brown's former champion yacht Say When, captained by Mart and Oliver Haviland, led at the finish, covering the course in twenty-four minutes, twenty seconds.

The Say When won by two minutes and fifteen seconds. The Daisy was second, the Whim third, only fifteen seconds behind. Andrew White's Brownie was fourth and Lester Pierce's Zoro fifth.

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